

How to reduce waste over the Holidays

Some suggestions for a less-wasteful holiday season:

- **Give homemade gifts**, such as cookies, handcrafts, or framed photos.
- **Give entertainment**, such as museum memberships; tickets to movies, theater, concerts, or sporting events; gift certificates to a favorite restaurant.
- **Give learning**, such as language or music lessons; classes in cooking, photography, or other favorite hobbies.
- **Give your time or talent**, such as baby-sitting, pet-sitting, computer help, or home repairs.
- **Give fitness**, such as gym memberships, personal training sessions, or classes in yoga, pilates, or dance.
- **Give pampering**, such as a massage, facial, manicure, or pedicure.
- **Give to the greater good** by making a contribution to someone's favorite charity.



Other ways to cut down on waste this holiday season:

- **use an artificial tree** instead of a real tree, and reuse it year after year. (If you do buy a real tree, leave the tinsel off so it can be recycled in January)
- **send email greetings** rather than paper cards to cut down on paper waste.
- **wrap gifts in reusable gift bags or create your own gift wrap** using maps or comics. (If you do buy gift wrap and greeting cards, make sure they're made from recycled paper)
- **Use durable plastic ware** designed for reuse rather than purchasing new cups and plates for each event. Use washable, reusable sponges, dishcloths, and napkins. If you use disposable paper goods, choose products made with recycled content.

And don't forget, others may want the stuff you no longer need. There are many local charitable organizations interested in receiving your gently used clothing, furniture, books, and electronic goods.

Happy Holidays